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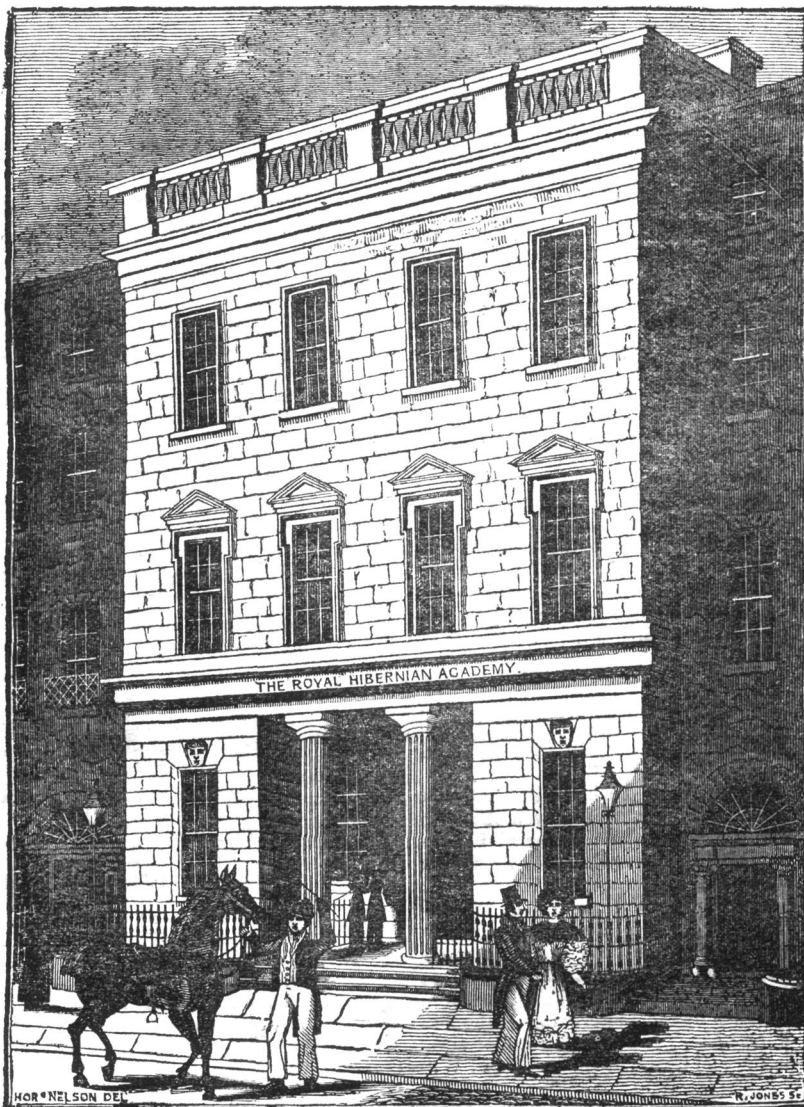
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ROYAL HIBERNIAN ACADEMY.

This chaste and elegant edifice, situated in lower Abbey-street, consists of three stories; in the basement there is a loggia or recess, ornamented by two fluted columns, of the Doric order, supporting the first story. Over the entrance is a head of Palladio, representing Architecture; over the window on the right, one of Michael Angelo, representing Sculpture, and on the left, of Raphael, emblematic of Painting. These are by J. Smyth, Esq. an associate. Passing through an entrance-hall, and ascending a broad flight of steps, the first exhibition room, 40 feet by 20, and intended for water-colour drawings, is entered. This communicates by an arch-way with the great saloon, for the exhibition of oil paintings, 50 feet by 40, lighted by a lantern. From this room a door-way on the right leads to the new Sculpture gallery, which is a beautiful octagonal apartment.

The Academy is possessed of a fine collection of casts from the antique, a few pictures by the old masters, and a tolerable library of works, chiefly connected with the Fine Arts, the greater number of which were presented by the late Edward Houghton, Esq.

A very ingeniously contrived stair-case leads to the council-room, keeper's-apartment, &c. which are all in the front building. The first stone of this edifice was laid on the 29th of April, 1824, by F. Johnston, Esq.; and on a copper plate which was firmly bedded in the stone, was the following inscription: "Anno. Dom. M.DCCC.XXIV. His Most Gracious Majesty, George

the Fourth, King of the United Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. having by his Royal Letters Patent, bearing date the 5th of August, 1823, incorporated the Artists of Ireland, under the name of 'The Royal Hibernian Academy of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture;' Francis Johnston, Esq. Architect, one of the members of that body, munificently founded this building for their use, to form a National School of Art; and laid this, the first stone, April 29th, 1824, the day appointed for the celebration of His Majesty's birth, in the presence of the Academy." Then follow the names of the original members. Messrs. Carolan were the builders.

This body was founded by Royal Charter, August the 2d, 1823, and consists of fourteen Academicians, and ten associates, all of whom must be professional Painters, Sculptors, or Architects. For the last few years it has, like the Royal Irish Academy, received an annual Parliamentary grant of £3000. To the generous and patriotic spirit of its first President, the late Francis Johnston, Esq. architect, it is indebted for the noble suite of rooms which constitute the Academy house, and which were given to the Academy for ever, at a rent of five Shillings per annum. To these rooms a statue gallery has been since added by his widow, and presented to the Academy for ever, at a similar rent.

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